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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The editor is not responsible for opinions expressed in this department. All communications must be accompanied by the name and address of the writer to ensure publication.

### THE EIGHT-HOUR DAY

Dear Editor: Almost unanimously hospital training schools are adopting the eight-hour duty for student nurses, a much needed improvement which is furnishing ample proof of its own merits, resulting chiefly in better services rendered by the nurses. It is certain that it will be a matter of a short time, only, when this schedule will become compulsory in all hospitals conducting training schools. Under the old system, training schools become places of drudgery wherein the nurses are kept on duty from ten to twelve hours each day, while at the same time they are subject to call after hours. Colleges, and all other institutions of instruction, provide a study period preparatory for each class. In most cases, a girl entering a training school, gives her services gratis, plus a minimum allowance. While students of other institutions of learning are given a certain amount of time to prepare each subject before attending class, the pupil nurse is more often obliged to prepare a subject after long hours on duty, when fatigued, and is therefore unable to do justice to herself. It is not only wronging her, but it is unfair, also, to ask an instructor to give his time for such class work. Yet this very system is still in vogue in some of the hospital training schools. We, as a body of women, belonging to the nursing profession, feel that if more facts regarding these abuses were given publicity it would result in better conditions for the nurses and, in the end, for the hospital training schools. Such institutions as hospitals must be managed on an economical basis but it must be attained through a broader method than by overworking student nurses. It is being noticed that through shorter hours, as good, and even better, service is being obtained. With the necessary amount of rest, a nurse is enabled to work to better advantage while on duty and is also given the opportunity to gain a better insight into her work. It is with these facts in mind that I would suggest a certain study period, which would be compulsory, and it is certain that classes would then become a pleasure to the nurses as well as a source of gratification to the instructors who give their valuable time to help place an institution of their community among the highest of its kind. Another source of dissatisfaction is the fact that nurses are often obliged to spend several weeks over their allotted time without compensation, other than that of students when they should be placed among the wage-earners of their class.

Michigan

B. M. W.

### REASONS FOR STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Dear Editor: As one who has never been a member of such an organization, I submit the following as my reasons why there should be an organized student body in every hospital, and the results I should expect from such an organization.

1. WHY? Because (a) coöperation is the slogan of the day. Work *with*, not *for* only. (b) The student body is the vital part of the "plant" and upon it largely depends the growth and reputation of the plant. Therefore, it should be recognized. (c) The student body is made up of live, thinking individuals, having a personality which should be respected and developed. (A practical suggestion given by an undergraduate might mean the saving of time and energy, so essential in the modern hospital. The factories pay for such suggestions.) (d) The students are to be the leaders of the future, and they must have training to become efficient leaders. (e) The supervisor needs the sympathy and loyalty of the